

### Peace Talk

*Peace cannot be kept by force. It can only be achieved by understanding.*

*Albert Einstein*

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*Peace is positive, and it has to be waged with all our thought, energy, and courage and with the conviction that war is not inevitable.*

*Dean Acheson*

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*Peace cannot suddenly descend from the heavens. It can only come when the root causes of trouble are removed.*

*Nehru*

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*The blame for the danger to world peace lies not in the world population, but in the political leaders of that population.*

*Franklin D. Roosevelt*

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*Peace is the one condition of survival in the nuclear age.*

*Adlai Stevenson*

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*The alternative of peace is not war. It is annihilation.*

*Raymond Gram Swing*

### *Mission*

*To help residents of inner cities improve the quality of their lives to reflect individual God-given dignity and personal achievement.*

### *More on Newark Missionaries ...for the good of the Church*

Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy, (DMMM) is a congregation of women religious whose members take the three public vows of Obedience, Poverty, and Chastity. The congregation was founded in 1961 by Rt. Rev. Dr. Anthony G. Nwedo, CSSP, the first indigenous Bishop of the Diocese of Umuahia, Nigeria. The Sisters serve always for the good of the Church and Humanity. Their apostolate includes education, medicine, social service and catechesis.

DMMM Congregational Spirit— the spirit of the Congregation is that of humility, prayer, penance and abandonment to the will of God.

DMMM charism— bearing witness to God, the merciful Father, Jesus our merciful Savior and Mary our Mother of Mercy by caring for the spiritually poor. Their work in orphanages, hospitals, nursing homes and schools in Nigeria has been very successful.

The DMMM Sisters arrived in the United States and settled in the diocese of Miami, Florida. From there, they spread to other dioceses including the Archdiocese of Newark in 1997. In Newark, some of the Sisters work at New Community Extended Care (Nursing Home), some at St. Rose of Lima School, several work at Sacred Heart Parish, Vailsburg; Blessed Sacrament Parish, Newark; St. Patrick's Parish in Jersey City.



*DMMM, sisters (bottom row) Pauline, Modestus, Louis, Kinsley. (Top row) Chinwem, Nnoedoziem, Cornelia.*

The Sisters remain very enthusiastic about their work in New Community Corporation.



## Gateway to Work (GTW)

GTW is NCC's answer to Welfare to Work. As such, they have to put a lot of faith in their working partners. Most notable of these partners is the ShopRite -Wakefern Food Corporation who have consistently supported NCC and hired our trainees.

The Rapid Transition to Work Program includes 4-6 weeks / 35 hours of training that offers:

- Customer Service Procedure
- Intensive Job Readiness
- Cashiering Techniques
- Hands-on Training in NCC Mini-Market
- Computer Based Cashiering Training

Annually at the Recognition Breakfast, ShopRite commends many of GTW grads who have demonstrated exemplary performances. Many graduates have received more than one promotion. Many are now supervisors or have been cross-trained or are in special projects.

### Return on Investment

A study made of the program for 2000-2001 based on 655 clients serviced, noted that the return to the community totaled \$13.9 million in the form of wages earned, general and State Income Taxes, Social Security, tax and sales.

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## Social Investment

Despite cutbacks in Federal and Foundation giving, our efforts remain focused on continuing to serve—

- Children in day care, pre-school, elementary schools, and after-school programs.
- Senior residents who need Home Health, Home Friends, Meals-on Wheels
- Unemployed who need jobs skills and life skills to survive
- NCC Nursing Home residents whose needs are legion- TLC is topmost
- NCC Family Service clients in marriage, family and domestic violence therapy.  
(This service has helped hundreds who were in crisis throughout the year).

Please continue to help us provide that first rung of the ladder of success for minimum wage earners.



## Social Services Department

### Club X – Senior Praxis

Club X (xercise) is the Senior Physical Fitness Program at NCC Associates (senior housing). It is specifically designed for elderly and /or disabled to work out from a sitting position.



The popularity of the program is growing considerably especially for music and fun. Songs from the Temptations, Supremes, and Vandellas float out of "Club X" on a regular basis. Seniors enjoy listening to tunes of their youth. They are

even capable of dancing from a sitting position. In fact, in mid-circle, 91 year old Ms Brown and double amputee Tommy Johnson swing and sway with arms moving in perfect rhythm with the music.

Wadjid Abdur-razzaq, Care Coordinator Supervisor and assistant Kecia Wertz, are the prime movers of this program which is fast becoming "the only game in town" three mornings per week.

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### Erin Watts- Grateful Senior

Erin Watts is a southern belle of Irish and American ancestry and daughter of a WWII US Navy Pilot and Navy Nurse. Post WWII the Family settled in Virginia Beach, VA after several military tours in France and Italy.

Erin became involved in the anti-Vietnam War movement despite her conservative upbringing. Eventually her disillusionment and confusion led to an extensive period of drug abuse. She spent years in several short term treatment centers but failed to find a cure.

Ms. Watts supportive family finally enrolled her in the Integrity House Therapeutic Community Rehabilitation Center in Newark. Five years later Erin was fully recovered and working in Integrity House.

A progressive liver problem now rendered Erin disabled and necessitated affordable housing. NCC's Associates senior building was designated accordingly and Erin moved in. From that time (1998) till the present, NCC has been there for her- regular visits with Dr. Sharma, a geriatric physician who makes "house calls"; Social Services Department; kind and caring neighbors; and the proximity of every kind of medical help.

According to Erin Watts – " I arrived here and felt an immediate sense of family... They welcomed me and gave me a feeling of security. I felt at home".





## Alexandra Solano

After graduating from Our Lady of Good Council High School, Alexandra entered Bloomfield College and received her BS in Business Administration in 1996. This same year Alex secured her first full-time paying job in NCC/St. Rose Parish.

Born in Ecuador, Alexandra moved to Newark at 12 years of age. She completed grade school and started high school. Alex became pregnant at 15 years of age and dropped out of school to take care of her son, Steven, now 17 years old. While on welfare, she managed to care for her son, volunteer her services to NCC Hispanic Development and to get her college degree. Since she had volunteered with NCC, Alex decided to interview for the job of St Rose bookkeeper and NCC liaison. For the past 9 years, NCC/St Rose has worked with an intelligent, quick-witted, capable, gracious hard worker. Her computer skills are legend. She has taken training in several computer programs (Excel, Microsoft, Raizer's Edge, etc) as well as Business Graphics.

Alexandra's responsibilities include maintaining data on cash receipts and disbursement data for St. Rose School/Church; employee payroll/benefits; bingo, Church Bulletin; translating (both verbal and written); assisting NCC Director of Resource Development in arranging tours; miscellaneous office work.

In her calm and quiet manner, Alex accomplishes a great deal in the office and returns home as quickly as possible to her family. She is anxious to spend time with her 5 year old, Kaitlyn, who is learning so much in Kindergarten and who loves to share her knowledge. Alex and her husband, Edgar are especially family-oriented. They were separated for the four years he spent in the US navy; ergo, they savor their present "togetherness".

On a personal level Alex finds unkind people distasteful and has little patience with shirkers/time wasters. In her " spare" time she enjoys cooking – desserts. Clearly, any other cooking is a chore. Listening to soft music as well as doing aerobics twice a week are important to her mental/physical well-being.

While Alexandra does not think of it as dispensing wisdom, her constant cautionary mantra to her son is – " you are responsible for your actions, think first..."

Also, morning and night, she specifically prays, asks God to protect and keep safe all members of her family as well as those with whom she works.

Her efficiency and dedication as well as her trustworthiness make Alexandra Solano one of our outstanding and much appreciated employees.